

All the News
about former
Members that's
Fit to Print.

The Capitol Post

House and Senate Chamber Update

Semper Fidelis

SERVING OUR LEGISLATIVE COMMUNITY SINCE 2020

Texas Edition

GO
FROGS!



No. 75

Monday, January 9, 2023 Austin, Texas

The Legislature Shall Meet Every Two Years

THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE 3. LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT

Sec. 5. MEETINGS; ORDER OF BUSINESS. (a) The Legislature shall meet every two years at such time as may be provided by law and at other times when convened by the Governor.

GOVERNMENT CODE

TITLE 3. LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

SUBTITLE A. LEGISLATURE

CHAPTER 301. LEGISLATIVE ORGANIZATION

SUBCHAPTER A. INITIAL MEETING AND ORGANIZATION

Sec. 301.001. TIME AND PLACE OF MEETING. The legislature shall convene at the seat of government in regular session at 12 noon on the second Tuesday in January of each odd-numbered year.

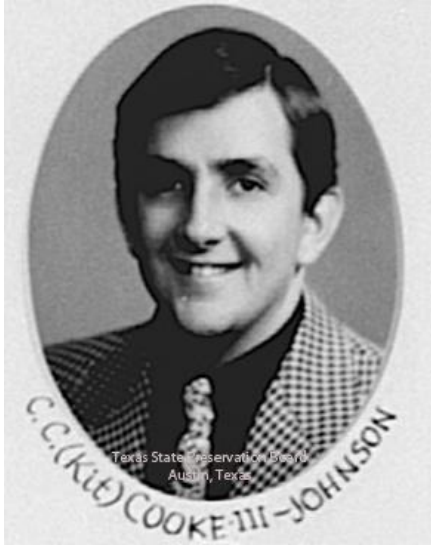
IN MEMORIAM



Rep. David Swinford
1941 – 2023



https://cemetery.tspb.texas.gov/pub/user_form.asp?step=1&pers_id=3238



Rep. C. C. "Kit" Cooke III
1947 – 2023



<https://www.legacy.com/us/communities/cleburne-high-school-cleburne-texas>

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

Please join me in welcoming this distinguished lady to our group. Mary is currently a regent on the board of The University of North Texas System.

<https://www.untsystem.edu/board-regents/mary-denny.php>



Rep. Mary Denny
1993 – 2007
73rd – 79th
Aubrey, Denton County



REMEMBERING OUR FRIENDS – LEST WE FORGET



Rep. Maria Elena "Lena" Guerrero

Date of birth: November 27, 1957

Date of death: April 24, 2008



Rep. Ruth Jones McClendon

Date of birth: October 5, 1943

Date of death: December 19, 2017

<https://lrl.texas.gov/legLeaders/members/memberDisplay.cfm?memberID=346&searchparams=chamber=~city=~countyID=0~RcountyID=~district=~first=~gender=~last=Guerrero~leaderNote=~leg=~party=~roleDesc=~Committee=>
<https://lrl.texas.gov/legLeaders/members/memberDisplay.cfm?memberID=208&searchparams=chamber=~city=~countyID=0~RcountyID=~district=~first=~gender=~last=McClendon~leaderNote=~leg=~party=~roleDesc=~Committee=>

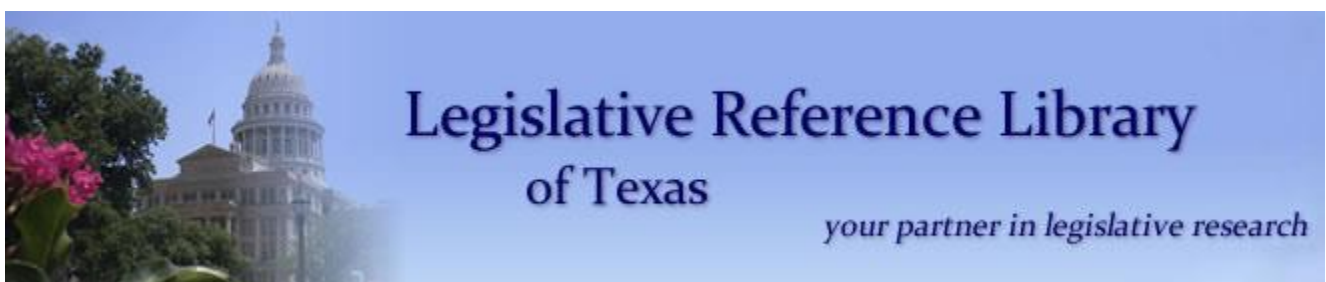
ATTENTION SILENT GENERATION AND BOOMERS

Some might say that it's an understatement to refer to the younger generations as "*different*." Well, here are a few things they type when they're texting with their devices that you might not have known.

- "smh" is an abbreviation for "shaking my head." Here is an example. "You actually like Yellowstone? smh."

- "ngl" is an abbreviation for "not gonna lie." Here is an example. "Ngl that hair color really does not suit you."

LRL CLIPPING SVC



<https://lrl.texas.gov/currentIssues/clips/lrlhome.cfm>

SEN. JEFF WENTWORTH & HIS BULLOCK STORIES

VI.

Judge A. W. Moursund of Blanco County was a larger-than-life Texan. A rancher, lawyer and banker, he was also the largest landowner in the county. He served two terms in the Texas House of Representatives after World War II and was then elected County Judge of Blanco County. A close friend and advisor to President Lyndon Johnson, he was LBJ's trustee of his blind trust while Johnson was in the White House.

When he called – and he rarely did – I listened to what he had to say. We didn't always agree, and in 1993 when he called to tell me he opposed my bill to create a Blanco County Water Conservation District, I listened politely but did not agree to kill my own bill.

The City of Blanco was entirely dependent on water from the Blanco River for its water supply, and when there was a drought, the Blanco River sometimes went dry, putting the entire City of Blanco at risk. Blanco County was in my senate district, and I had had a large number of citizens there request the creation of a water conservation district, and they also asked the same of their state representative, Harvey Hilderbran of Kerrville. We both introduced bills to accomplish that goal. Since they were local bills, and since both the state senator and the state representative representing the only county affected by the legislation approved, both our bills were proceeding through the process in due order. Harvey's bill cleared committee unanimously and then the full House. While mine had cleared committee, it had yet to clear the Senate, so when the House bill arrived, I simply substituted the House bill for my own Senate bill and proceeded to the floor of the Senate as the Senate sponsor of the House bill for final passage.

Judge Moursund's argument against the bill was that, as the largest landowner in the county, he would be paying more money for what he considered an unnecessary bureaucracy than any other citizen.

I set the bill on the calendar for a vote on the Senate floor and was notified by the Senate parliamentarian, Bob Johnson, that I would be recognized on the bill.

When the time came and I was recognized by Lieutenant Governor Bullock on my bill, however, not long after I began explaining the bill, Bullock interrupted me to say that I wasn't recognized on that bill and called on another senator. I tried to argue with Bullock but didn't prevail, and Senator Bivins seated behind me said, "Wentworth, you may as well sit down. You don't have the floor anymore."

Instead of sitting down, I walked up to the front of the chamber where the parliamentarian sat to ask what in the world had just happened. As I approached Mr. Johnson's chair, he was bent over shaking his head from side to side and said to me, "Senator, I'm so sorry. This is all my fault. I never should have told you that you would be recognized on that bill. Judge Moursund is opposed to your bill."

"I know that," I said. "He called me to tell me that he opposed the bill, but I'm not going to pull my own bill down."

"Well, Senator, he called Governor Bullock, too, and Bullock promised him that he'd kill the bill."

Several days later during a meeting of the Senate Caucus, Bullock was exhorting us all about what a fair presiding officer he was and that none of us could complain about not getting a vote on our bills so long as we had the required two-thirds of the Senate on board – and then, as he surveyed the assembled senators and our eyes met and he recalled the Blanco County bill, he said "Except for Wentworth."

While that Blanco County Water Conservation District bill did, in fact, die during the 1993 session, I introduced it again in 1995, and it passed.

The Arcane Texas Fact of the Day:

Parker County, of which Weatherford is the county seat, was named for Isaac Parker, the man who introduced the legislation that created the county in 1855. Isaac was an interesting man. He was born in 1793 and moved to Texas in 1833, settling at Mustang Prairie in Houston County. On October 5, 1835, he left to travel across the southern United States to spread the alarm of the coming war with Mexico and to call for volunteers to come to Texas. When autumn 1836 rolled around, he was serving as a member of Elisha Clapp's company of rangers, which Sam Houston directed to "range from any point on the Brazos to Mr. Hall's Trading House on the Trinity" to intercept parties of raiding Indians.

Parker represented Houston County in the House of the Third, Fourth, Sixth, and Seventh congresses (1838–40 and 1841–43) and was a senator for the District of Houston, Nacogdoches, and Rusk in the Eighth and Ninth congresses (1843–45). He was a member of the Convention of 1845. Isaac was a senator in the first four terms of the Texas legislature (1846–53) and represented Ellis and Tarrant counties in the House in 1855–56, at which time he introduced the bill to establish Parker County. In 1845 he made repeated efforts to secure the release of his niece and nephew, Cynthia Ann Parker and John Parker, who had been captured by Indians at Fort Parker on May 19, 1836. It was Isaac who identified Cynthia Ann at Camp Cooper in January 1861, after her recapture on December 18, 1860, by Sul Ross. Parker took her to his home at Birdville and later to Austin, where he succeeded in having bills passed granting her a pension and a league of land.

Isaac Parker was three days shy of his 90th birthday when he died on April 14, 1883, near Weatherford. He is buried in Turner Cemetery, six miles southeast of Weatherford.

From Traces of Texas

TEXAS POPULATION GROWS TO 30 MILLION

The U.S. Census Bureau has recently released new population figures and Texas has joined California as the only two states in the nation with over thirty million people.

Fueled by migration from other states and after years of steady growth the population as of July 1 is 30,029,573. For comparison the population in 1970 was 11, 198,655.

<https://www.texastribune.org/2022/12/22/texas-population-growth-30-million-census/>

THE AMBASSADOR HAS THE FLOOR

The spectacle of the US House last week struggling to organize itself should make Texans rejoice that “it can’t happen here”.

Under the federal Constitution, the House must elect a speaker before it can do anything else - - adopting rules, naming committees, or passing a resolution in support of the flag.

The Texas Constitution, by contrast, allows our House to “organize temporarily” before proceeding to the election of a speaker “from its own members.” This latter phrase is critical, because it ensures that the speaker of the Texas House is an elected member of the body. Amazingly, this is not required of the speaker of the US House, perhaps because the framers of the Constitution simply presumed that the speaker would always be a member.

Our state constitution has several other advantages over its federal model, such as limited sessions, a requirement to pass a budget, and a mandate that that budget be balanced. We have also developed, outside the constitutional framework, a system whereby a speaker may appoint members of the other party to committee chairmanships. This has plainly and indisputably served the interest of Texas for many years.

It is therefore astounding that there are those in our state who want to abandon this bipartisan tradition and make the Texas Legislature like the US Congress. These same folks, fairly frothing about the “swamp” on the Potomac, are eager to recreate it on the banks of the Colorado. What happened last week in Washington is apparently what they dream will happen in Austin, if not this year then some year soon to come. They lust for the conditions that afflict and constrict the US Congress.

They don’t want to actually deal with problems like immigration, the debt, the deficit, or health care. If they did, it would rob them of issues to use against the other side. More and more, governing is not the object of serving in Congress: It’s raising money and making speeches to win the next election and continue the same cycle. This is the dismal system that many people want in Texas – Lord knows why.

We the readers of this newsletter have all wanted to be elected to office and then re-elected, just like members of Congress. But, unlike many of them, we wanted to do something once we took the oath of office. Maybe what we wanted to do was of marginal or questionable benefit to the people of the state, but we wanted to *act*, not just to jabber.

That’s why we in Texas can take some comfort in how we do things down here, while up in DC they continue to jabber and to fight.

-Chase Untermeyer

Former member, Texas House of Representatives

White House staff

United States Ambassador to Qatar

WHAT IS GOING ON?

Houston Chronicle - December 29, 2022

Dozens of anti-Semitic flyers blanket Houston's Museum District, horrifying residents

After waking up later than usual, Claire Tompkins was still in her pajamas and fuzzy slippers when she walked out of her home in an affluent neighborhood in the Museum District to grab her mail last Thursday. It didn't take long for her ordinary day as a retiree to quickly turn to shock and outrage after she and her neighbors found dozens of anti-Semitic pamphlets littered across their yards, sidewalks and driveways. "I thought it was rubbish that blew over, and I picked it up and read it and was just horrified," Tompkins said. "It was horrifying trash." Multiple streets in her small neighborhood, just a few blocks away from Rice University, Hermann Park and Houston's famous art museums, were hit with the hateful leaflets, she added.

The pamphlets, wrapped in sandwich bags and weighed down by pebbles, were a screed of anti-Jewish hate speech and conspiracy theories that have been on the rise in recent years. Stephen Fox, a Rice University architecture lecturer who lives nearby, was delivering gifts to his friends in the neighborhood last Thursday when he, too, noticed the pamphlets. Although he didn't read any of them, he was appalled after hearing about what was inside. "I was shocked to realize the context," he said, adding that the pamphlets lined the neighborhood's streets and sidewalks and that he initially thought they were litter. Similar hate pamphlets have surfaced in other Houston-area neighborhoods several times this year. In February, white supremacist materials were found littered across a neighborhood in Cypress. Later that month, a family in Atascocita spent an entire night collecting and disposing of hundreds of racist flyers.

Texas Antisemitism Study Highlights Rising Hate, Makes Eight Recommendations to Fight Back

AUSTIN, Texas —

The [Texas Holocaust, Genocide, and Antisemitism Advisory Commission \(THGAAC\)](#) has submitted the first-ever [Study on Antisemitism in Texas](#) to Gov. Greg Abbott, legislative leaders, and Texas lawmakers — and laid out eight recommendations for Texas to promote awareness, improve security, and fight back against rising hatred against Jews.

In 2021, the Texas Legislature established THGAAC as an advisory commission to the Texas Historical Commission and directed it to produce a biennial study on antisemitism. In the 18 months since then, antisemitic incidents have grown more frequent and more extreme in Texas, the study finds. They have included arson at a synagogue; hostage-taking during religious services; college students targeted for their support for Israel; families feeling a sense of "othering" in some schools; and neighborhoods blanketed with anti-Jewish messages.

"This week, Jewish families are gathering to celebrate Chanukah when they remember their centuries-old struggles against — and victories over — hate. This study is a powerful call to action for Texans to come together to fight modern-day antisemitism in all forms across our communities," said THGAAC Chair Kenneth E. Goldberg of Dallas. "This hatred has no place in our state, and this report provides a roadmap for local officials, educational leaders, and state officeholders to support Jewish Texans."

Three of the recommendations will require legislative action next year. They include:

- **Creating a state-funded security grant program** to help religious organizations, schools, and community centers harden their security infrastructures
- **Prohibiting state-funded colleges from implementing academic boycotts**, such as those promoted through the anti-Israel and antisemitic global Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement

· **Scheduling “listening tours” for lawmakers** to speak with THGAAC, local educators, and museum officials to better understand their needs around Holocaust and antisemitism education.

“The normalization of antisemitism in our communities draws on centuries-old tropes about Jewish greed, control, and influence, which have taken root across ideologies and sectors of society. These trends have emerged at a moment when information — and misinformation — is easier than ever to share online,” said THGAAC Executive Director Joy Nathan. “Our commission stands ready to support and advise legislators and state leaders as they review this report and assess our recommendations.”

The other five recommendations can be implemented directly by the THGAAC through its ongoing advisory role to local governments, school districts, universities, and law enforcement. They focus on:

- Supporting training about antisemitism at universities
- Expanding Holocaust education in public schools
- Using the International Holocaust Remembrance Association (IHRA) definition of antisemitism as an educational and training tool
- Ensuring that Holocaust-related books are available in school libraries
- Increasing connections with law enforcement, including around hate crime reporting

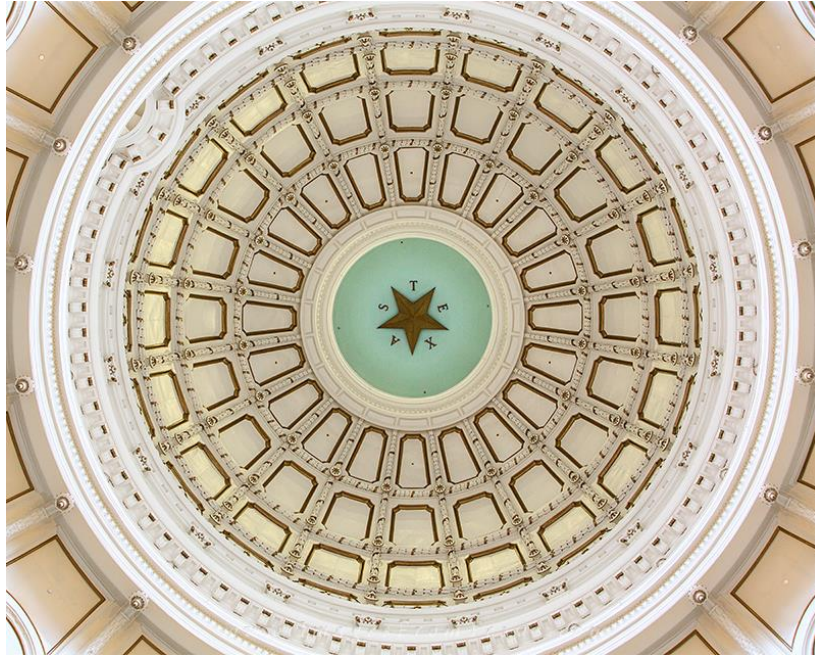
“The events in Texas over the past 18 months show the increased need to raise awareness about the Holocaust, genocide, and antisemitism and the vital role our commission must play,” said Goldberg. “This Study on Antisemitism provides a guide for state leaders to build on their long-standing commitment to educating Texans and rooting out this hatred.”

The 2021 law that created THGAAC was one of multiple state efforts in recent years to recognize and combat rising antisemitism. In 2017, Gov. Abbott signed a law that empowered Texas to lead the national fight against the Boycott, Divestments and Sanctions (BDS) movement. Since 2019, his office has distributed \$9 million in federal security grants to Jewish institutions.

To prepare the Study on Antisemitism, THGAAC reviewed data and reports from law enforcement agencies and groups dedicated to fighting hate in Texas and nationally. The commission interviewed more than 25 members of the Texas Jewish community as well as public safety officials, educators, leaders of national Jewish organizations, and academics who research the history and state of antisemitism.

The study also reviews the history and tropes of antisemitism, provides an overview of the Texas Jewish community, and includes detailed information about specific anti-Semitic incidents and educational and outreach efforts in Texas.

DOME BOY'S BLOG



The far right in America, like in many other countries, has a long history of promoting hate and anti-Semitism. There are many factors that contribute to this phenomenon, including a lack of education and understanding about different cultures and religions, a history of discrimination and prejudice, and a desire to find someone to blame for societal problems. Some far-right groups and individuals may also use hate and anti-Semitism as a way to mobilize and unite their followers around a shared ideology or cause. In some cases, these groups may seek to exploit existing social and economic tensions in order to advance their own agendas.

It is important to recognize that hate and anti-Semitism have no place in a healthy, inclusive society and that it is up to all of us to work together to combat these destructive forces. This can include speaking out against hate and discrimination, supporting organizations that promote tolerance and understanding, and working to promote education and awareness about the dangers of hate and intolerance.

Here's a great story about Franco Harris and Lynn Swann. Congress should think about this long and hard.

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/franco-and-other-profiles-in-courage/article_907822f2-8077-11ed-ac44-87803a0cc0e6.html

What is the appropriate pay and related benefits for a state lawmaker? I think Texas has a great system. Members receive an annual salary of \$600 a month, (a little over \$300 after deductions) and a constitutional per diem per day while in session of \$30 a day and a per diem while in session according to IRS guidelines. This type of compensation maintains a "citizen" legislature unlike Washington, D.C.

Other states look at it differently. Just before Christmas the New York Assembly gave themselves a \$32,000 a year pay increase. According to the NCSL this makes them the highest paid legislators in the country at \$142,000 a year. New Mexico is also working on increasing its compensation.

https://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/local_news/lawmakers-push-proposal-to-provide-legislature-a-salary-full-time-staff/article_9f38565e-80b8-11ed-9d04-f7ffc6a18.html

<https://www.lcsun-news.com/story/news/local/new-mexico/legislature/2019/01/18/nm-legislature-lawmaker-salary-proposal-government-commission-job/2615186002/>

Mike

WAY BACK WHEN



Jesse Lincoln Driskill (1824 – 1890), born in Tennessee, moved to Bastrop, where he went into the cattle business around 1850. During the Civil War he provided beef to the Confederacy which made him an honorary Colonel, and paid him in Confederate dollars. He went broke after the war and began driving cattle on the Old Chisholm Trail. He moved to Austin in 1870 and purchased a city block at what is today 6th St. and Brazos for \$7,500. He opened the **Driskill Hotel** in December 1886 at a total cost of \$400,000. Col. Driskill went bankrupt again and lost the hotel. The British mortgage holders bought the hotel at auction for \$75,000 in December 1894. Col. Driskill died May 1, 1890.

The Driskill Hotel had numerous owners over the next hundred years including Braniff International Hotels in 1973. The hotel was designated an historic landmark in the late 1970s and is ultimately purchased by its current owner, Great American Life Insurance. It reopened in 1999 after a major renovation.

It has been reported that Lyndon Johnson and Lady Bird met there for their first date in 1934. After being elected President, Johnson used the Driskill for his election watch parties. Gov. Ronald Reagan stayed there when he was in Austin during the 1972 Presidential campaign. President Bill Clinton stayed there and probably many others.

HISTORIC PHOTOS



This view of the Senate Chamber shows much of the furniture listed in the original specifications, including the members' swivel-based chairs and desks. Also visible is one of the building's most striking architectural features--the etched glass ceiling panels which provided the Chamber with natural lighting. Because one of these panels fell and shattered in 1947, they were removed for safety reasons



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CHAMBER, CAPITOL BUILDING.

IN CONCLUSION

Let's finish with one of our favorite songs, Galveston, by one of our favorite singers, Glen Campbell, dedicated to one of our favorite persons, **Rep. Patricia Gray**, who resides in Galveston. Thanks for reading ya'll.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZTbTHITmDX8&authuser=1>

